

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for manufacturing custom fit therapeutic footwear comprising the steps of:

5 a) measuring and imprinting a patient's foot to identify a patient's footprint and high pressure areas on the bottom of the foot;

10 b) providing a multidensity first insert that is fabricated from a mold of the foot;

c) forming an area of reduced thickness in the first insert corresponding to at least one of the high pressure areas;

15 d) providing a mass of a second insert material having a softer hardness than the first insert material; and

e) partially filling the area of reduced thickness in the first insert with a mass of the second insert material to thereby provide a custom molded insert with 16 accommodation.

2. A method for manufacturing custom fit therapeutic footwear according to claim 1 which includes the step of inserting the custom fit inserts into a shoe.

3. A method for manufacturing custom fit therapeutic footwear according to claim 2 in which the area of reduced thickness in the first insert is reduced by about 75%.

4. A method for manufacturing custom fit therapeutic footwear according to claim 3 in which the first insert

material has a thickness of about 5/8 inch and in which the thickness of the second insert material is about 1/16 inch.

5       5. A method for manufacturing custom fit therapeutic footwear according to claim 4 in which the first insert is made of polyethylene or ethyl vinyl acetate and the second insert material is a polyurethane foam.

6. A method for manufacturing custom fit therapeutic footwear according to claim 3 in which said area of reduced thickness is formed by abrading a selected portion of the first insert material with an abrasive.

7. A method for manufacturing custom fit therapeutic footwear according to claim 1 which includes the steps of adding a pad of said first insert material around the area of reduced thickness.

8. A method for manufacturing custom fit therapeutic footwear according to claim 4 which includes the steps of adding a pad of about 1/8 inch thickness of said first insert material around the area of reduced thickness.

9. A method for manufacturing custom fit therapeutic footwear according to claim 1 which includes the steps of making a mold of a lower portion of the patient's foot and forming a cast of the lower portion of the patient's foot  
5       from the mold.

10. A method for manufacturing custom fit therapeutic footwear according to claim 9 which include the steps of tracing an outline of the patient's foot on the imprint, sizing a shoe based on the outline of the patient's foot,  
10     selecting a manufactured shoe to fit the patient's foot and inserting the custom fit insert into the selected shoe.

11. A method for manufacturing custom fit therapeutic  
footwear according to claim 1 which includes the steps of  
vacuum forming the first insert material and providing a  
15 sheet of the second insert material which is cut to fit  
into the area of reduced thickness in the first insert  
material.

12. A method for remotely fitting therapeutic footwear  
and manufacturing custom molded inserts with accommodations  
20 comprising the steps of:

a) evaluating a patient's foot;

b) measuring and imprinting a patient's foot to  
identify a patient's footprint and high pressure areas on  
the bottom of the foot;

25 c) making a mold of the lower portion of the patient's  
foot;

d) forming a smooth cast of the lower portion of the  
patient's foot from the mold;

e) providing a mass of a first insert material and  
30 forming the mass into a shape that corresponds to the lower  
portion of the patient's foot;

f) forming an area of reduced thickness in the shaped  
first insert material corresponding to at least one of the  
high pressure areas on the imprint of the patient's foot;

35 g) providing a sheet of a second insert material  
having a durometer that is softer than the first insert  
material;

40        h) partially filling the area of reduced thickness in  
the first insert material with a cutout portion of the  
second insert material;

45        i) dispensing shoes and custom inserts to the patient;  
and

45        wherein steps a, b, c, and i are performed in the  
office of a licensed professional practitioner and steps d,  
e, f, g, and h are performed in a laboratory for  
manufacturing custom fit inserts.

50        13. A method for remotely fitting therapeutic  
footwear and manufacturing custom molded inserts with  
accommodations according to claim 12 which includes the  
step of adding a pad of said first insert material around  
the area of reduced thickness.

55        14. A custom fitted molded therapeutic insert to meet  
the needs of diabetics and other individuals with a need  
for custom fit therapeutic inserts comprising:

60        a molded base having a shape which corresponds to  
the bottom of a patient's foot, a length, width and  
thickness, said molded base defining an area of reduced  
thickness and defining an area which corresponds to high  
pressure points on the bottom of the patient's foot, a  
plastic insert material softer than the molded base  
partially filling the area of reduced thickness.

5        15. A custom fitted molded therapeutic insert  
according to claim 14 in which said molded base has a  
thickness of about 3/8 inch and which said area of reduced  
thickness is reduced to about 75% of its original thickness  
and which the plastic insert material has a thickness of  
about 1/16 inch.

16. A custom fitted molded therapeutic insert according to claim 15 which includes an additional layer defining an opening therein which corresponds to the area 10 of reduced thickness and which is placed on top of and surrounding that area.

17. A custom fitted molded therapeutic insert according to claim 16 in which said additional layer is of the same material as said molded base and has a thickness of about 1/8 inch.

18. A custom fitted molded therapeutic insert according to claim 14 in which said base is a polyethylene or ethyl vinyl acetate and said plastic insert material is a polyurethane.

19. A custom fitted molded therapeutic insert according to claim 16 in which said base is a polyethylene or ethyl vinyl acetate and said plastic insert material is a polyurethane foam.